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Summary of Stakeholders' submissions on Ghana*

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a summary of 24 stakeholders' submissions[1] to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

II. Information provided by stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[2]

2. JS8 recommended Ghana to expedite the ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and on a Communications Procedure.[3]

3. JS15 recommended that Ghana ratify all International Labour Organization Conventions (ILO).[4] JS5 recommended ratifying the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 169 by September 2018.[5]

* The present document was not edited before being sent to United Nations translation services.

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B. National human rights framework*

4. JS8 recommended Ghana to amend Islamic law CAP 129 to harmonize it with the Children's Act 1998, the Domestic Violence Act and the Juvenile Justice Act in order to ensure that child marriage is strictly prohibited and criminalized.[7]

5. Noting that at the UPR process in 2012, Ghana supported recommendations 125.7, 125.8 and 125.9[8], JS11 stated that some of the challenges confronting the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) include lack of demonstrable political will for the enforcement of its decisions, lack of statutory power to verify the accuracy of assets declared by public officials, lack of financial autonomy and inadequate financial resources.[9] JS11 recommended that the Government strengthen the CHRAJ by granting it the financial autonomy needed, in particular, to effectively deal with corruption.[9] JS13 made similar statements and recommendations.[10]

C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

6. ACILA stated that per UPR 2012, despite Ghana's support to a recommendation[11] to intensify efforts to complete the alignment of the national legislation with the provisions of the Rome Statute and the subsequent drafting of the International Criminal Court Bill in 2016, the bill has ultimately not been passed and the domestication of the Rome Statute remains a pending issue.[12] HRW stated that Ghana should further demonstrate its commitment to the International Criminal Court by implementing the treaty through national legislation, including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the Court.[13]

7. ACILA also stated that per UPR 2012, numerous recommendations were made to Ghana to ratify, implement or bring its domestic laws in compliance with its international law obligations, in addition to ratifying, before the end of the third UPR cycle, those Conventions to which Ghana is a signatory[14]; ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty[15], ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and, in this context, establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture as provided by this instrument,[16] among other recommendations.[17]

1. Cross cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination[18]

8. JS3 noted with concern that homophobia directed to lesbians, gays, bisexual, and queer/questioning people is highly prevalent in Ghana. For transgender, transsexual and intersex people, the social climate is such that individuals keep their gender identity almost completely hidden. Additionally, those who speak out about human rights violations perpetrated against people that are LGBTQI are also targets of homophobia.[19]

9. HRW stated that the criminalization of adult consensual same-sex conduct, in terms of section 104(1) (b) of the Criminal Code, which prohibits 'unnatural carnal knowledge' (widely interpreted to mean same-sex conduct) contributed to a climate in which violence and discrimination against LGBT people were widespread. It further noted that the law does not prevent discrimination against LGBT people including in access to health services,

[1] A/HRC/22/6 - Para. 125.

employment, housing, education, and facilitated blackmail and extortion.[20] JS10 expressed similar concerns and further noted that social stigma and religious prejudice were two major causes behind systematic violence and discrimination against LGBT-persons.[21] HRAC made a similar statement and further noted that because of the extreme prejudice and discrimination they face, men who have sex with men were often not vocal about their status.[22]

10. JS3 noted with concern that Chapter 6 Section 104 of Ghana's Criminal Code (1960) is used to threaten, arrest and punish individuals who do have, or have been perceived to have, engaged in same-sex sexual activity.[23] JS14 noted with concern that individuals in Ghana are often arrested on the basis of conduct relating to their sexual orientation, even though their actions are not violating other Ghanaian laws.[24]

11. JS3 regretted the severe lack of protection from physical attacks against LGBTQI individuals in Ghana[25] and recommended that the Government take measures to prevent further hate crimes, hate speech, and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity and to ensure that any crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity are promptly investigated, prosecuted and punished, and that the victims are provided appropriate remedy.[26]

2. Civil and Political Rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person[27]

12. JS1 noted that Ghana was abolitionist for the death penalty in practice and has not executed anyone since 1993. However, courts continued to pronounce death sentences and in 2014 the Government rejected the recommendation of the Constitutional Review Implementation Committee to abolish the death penalty, or to adopt a formal interim moratorium on executions, or to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.[28]

13. JS5 noted with concern that Article 13 of Ghana's Constitution, which guarantees the right to life, also provides for much wider grounds for the use of lethal force than is permissible under international standards[29] and that there is no independent mechanism to investigate police abuses.[30] JS1 made a similar statement.[31]

14. MFWA noted that given the number of incidents of violations perpetrated by security forces, it remained unclear if measures taken by the Government to combat police violations, including brutality against journalists and others exercising their free expression rights had been effective or even adequate.[32] Noting that Police brutality in addressing conflict between a community and a mining company resulted in the death of a community protestor,[33] JS5 recommended that the Government integrate respect for human rights in the operating protocols of security forces in responding to cases of illegal logging, mining or social conflicts between investors and locals.[34]

15. JS1 stated that the Ghana Prison Service revealed that conditions at the country's prisons have seen little improvement, despite countless appeals. It further noted that there was an extreme level of overcrowding, resulting in a number of serious violations, including inadequate nutrition, insufficient access to medical care, poor sanitation, personal security and the absence of rehabilitation services.[35]

16. HRAC stated that sex workers experience violence from their clients, the public, and the Police. Sex workers operate under a continually "potentially violent environment" and were predisposed to dangers as there are no proven security mechanisms in place to screen dangerous clients.[36] HRAC recommended that Ghana address unfair legal and personal punishment of sex workers versus the punishment of clients, and institute legal protection for sex workers against the violence and threats of violence to which they are subjected.[37]

Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law[38]

17. JS11 stated that corruption continues to be a drawback to the fight against poverty and that, according to the Ghana Integrity Initiative, the local chapter of the Transparency International, corruption was one of the many reasons Ghana was unable to achieve some of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).[39]

18. JS1 was concerned that there was no independent mechanism to investigate police abuses[40] and recommended establishing an independent Police Complaint Commission to deal with police brutality cases and provide an effective remedy to victims.[41] JS1 was also concerned about the existing lack of awareness about legal rights, long delays in proceedings, and woeful underrepresentation of lawyers at the Legal Aid Scheme.[42]

19. JS5 noted with concern that the economic, social and cultural rights of communities suffering from the operations of mining companies are difficult to enforce through the courts. Practical obstacles include the costs of pursuing a claim and the difficulty of obtaining affordable legal assistance, as well as the weak capacity of judges and local courts to adjudicate matters relating to business impacts on human rights.[43]

20. JS5 stated that the Minerals and Mining Act 2006 (Act 703) empowers the Government to resolve conflicts on compensation payment between mining communities and mining companies. This requirement prejudices communities suffering from the operations of mining companies and does not provide for any relief to the community while the conflict with the mining companies is being handled.[44]

21. JS1 stated with concern that the Criminal Procedure Code Act 30 of 1960, which provides for children in conflict with the law to be treated differently from adults, had major shortcomings. It further added that Ghana's Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) reported that many juveniles were perishing in adult prisons in the country.[45]

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[46]

22. JS16 regretted that the Right to Information (RTI) Bill had not yet been passed by the Parliament, despite Ghana's acceptance of the recommendations[47] made by Austria and Canada in 2012.[48] JS7 made a similar remark and recommended that Ghana pass the RTI Bill as soon as possible.[49] JS16 added that despite the welcome removal of criminal libel and seditious libel provisions from the country's Criminal Code (1960, Act 29) in 2001, there were several other pieces of legislation that restrict freedom of expression, such as the application of contempt of court laws in several instances.[50]

23. MFWA noted that the Government generally respects freedom of expression and apparently does not endorse or incite crimes against journalists or against others exercising their free expression rights. Instead, government authorities have made public statements recognising the importance of journalists in promoting democracy.[51] However, the Government did not make any strong and significant commitments to ensure the investigation and prosecution of crimes against journalists and others exercising their free expression rights. MFWA further noted that Ghana's lack of political will to fight impunity for crimes against journalists had the potential to embolden individuals commit further violations.[52] JS16 recommended that Ghana ensure that media freedom remains robust by protecting media actors' freedom of expression in law, policy and practice, as per Chapter 12 of Ghana's Constitution, under Articles 162 and 163, which fully guarantees freedom and independence of the media and give journalists the full protection they need to practice.[53]

24. JS7 reported allegations of violation of freedom of speech by state and non-state actors without the State investigating the incidents or providing an effective remedy. The

reported violations were mostly in the form of physical attacks, arrests and detentions, threats and censorship. JS7 concluded that violence perpetrated by state actors to repress freedom of opinion and expression was particularly disturbing[54] and recommended that the Government investigate, prosecute, and sanction all attacks on journalists and guarantee adequate protection and security for them, so they can effectively perform their duties without any fear of victimization.[55] MFWA recommended that the Government conduct immediate and effective investigations into all violations of free expression rights, particularly the use of excessive of force by security forces.[56]

3. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[57]

25. JS15 noted that the greatest challenge facing the youth in Ghana has been the lack of employment opportunities. In the last three decades, the Government has often focused its attention on the stabilization of the economy and in particular the achievement of single digit inflation rate rather than employment. This policy direction has often been reflected in budget statements with little attention to measures to create or help create employment on the scale required for a significant poverty reduction.[58] JS15 therefore recommended that Ghana conduct, in the nearest possible time, a comprehensive survey highlighting the high unemployment rate in the country, to implement effective measures to solve the problem and to review the Labour Act, which has been active for over 10 years without review.[59]

Right to an adequate standard of living[60]

26 JS13 noted with concern that corruption in local land administration and at grand level between investors and local elite favors "land grabs" and State capture, and marginalizes local populations.[61]

Right to health[62]

27. JS10 noted with concern that most of the abortions performed in Ghana are still unsafe, representing the second highest cases of maternal mortality and one of the main causes of long-term maternal morbidity in the country. Remaining legal restrictions, lack of accessibility and affordability, lack of access to information and contraception, increasing rates of unwanted/untimed pregnancies, together with stigma and social rejection of premarital sexual activity, among others have been identified as major causes of unsafe abortion. Lack of knowledge and stigma play a major role in women's reluctance to seek post-abortion care, particularly among young women.[63]

28. ADF recommended that Ghana acknowledge that the legalization of abortion in a country with high levels of maternal mortality and morbidity and problems with access to proper health care, does not make pregnancy and childbirth any safer.[64] ADF also recommended that Ghana improve the health care infrastructure, access to emergency obstetric care, midwife training, resources devoted to maternal health with a focus on safely getting mothers and babies through pregnancy and childbirth, and health-care access for women from poor and/or rural backgrounds.[65]

29. JS13 noted with concern that corruption is particularly detrimental in health care delivery in Ghana. The direct impact is visible: a poor policy decision can result in unequal access, unnecessary trauma and ultimately higher mortality rates for patients seeking care. Furthermore, bribery, favoritism and extra fees for drugs and treatment that are routinely demanded, prevent poor communities from accessing health care.[66] JS9 recommended that the National Health Insurance Scheme be financially supported to be able to provide basic healthcare to mothers, babies and the elder.[67]

30. GCNH noted that there were no explicit laws on adolescent reproductive health in Ghana and that there were different domestic legal provisions covering children and adolescents' rights.[68]

31. JS14 noted with concern that fear of being stigmatized continued to discourage persons from being tested for HIV and those who test positive, from seeking timely care. HIV-positive persons face discrimination in employment and are often forced to leave their jobs or houses.[69]

32. HRAC stated that sex workers were at great and heightened risk for contracting HIV[70] and recommended that Ghana improve health service delivery to target sex workers and their non-paying partners regarding HIV and other health problems.[71] JS9 recommended that the Government ensure readily available anti-retroviral drugs and stock pile of all tuberculosis and HIV treatment systems in all hospitals and clinics in the country, in order to regulate shortages, control medicine theft and high pricing of stocks.[72]

33. JS12 was concerned about the low percentage of the total demand of family planning due to the lack of understanding of contraceptive methods and the inaccessibility and/or unaffordability of family planning services. JS12 therefore recommended Ghana to enact a legal provision to regulate family planning services and to educate communities in order to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate.[73]

34. JS12 was also concerned that abortion law in Ghana is not fully interpreted making the provision of abortion concerning physical and mental health care unclear, and that abortion care services throughout the country are inaccessible due to health provider bias.[74]

35. JS9 recommended that Ghana ensure that the Parliament passes the legislative instrument for the implementation of the Mental Health Act to foster the regulation of the activities of prayer camp operators and other faith based healers to effectively protect the right to health.[75]

36. JS5 stated that illegal mining has created an environment and a natural resource crisis in Ghana. Illegal mining is carried out in forest landscapes, agricultural land and on river bodies. As a result, water bodies have been silted, and seriously polluted with heavy metals such as cyanide and other toxins. Illegal mining is also associated with hazardous child labour. Efforts by the police to arrest and prosecute offenders have been ineffective.[76]

Right to education[77]

37. JS10 stated that there was no official policy for providing youth with the necessary knowledge and skills to face serious challenges preventing them from reaching their full developmental potential, namely: teenage pregnancy and childbearing rates, girls' school drop-out due to pregnancy, teen marriage, teenage unsafe abortion, maternal mortality and harmful customary practices.[78]

38. JS3 recommended Ghana to provide clear national guidelines to prevent discrimination directed towards students on any grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity and provide mechanisms for effective redress whenever a student faces such discrimination, including legal action unhampered by limitations based on financial capacity of the child, nor the family.[79]

39. JS13 regretted that parents and guardians still face a significant financial burden due to the Government's inability to provide the necessary resources and infrastructure to support education, leaving children from poor households out of school[80] and recommended that Ghana reduce the burden of education on parents by implementing the free education programme as stipulated in the country's 2017 budget.[81]

40. FMSI was concerned about the extent to which the right to free, compulsory universal basic education policy was being faithfully implemented, with reports suggesting that Ghana's education system was neither truly free, nor compulsory.[82] FMSI recommended that Ghana take necessary measures to ensure that primary schooling is completely free for children to attend.[83]

4. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women[84]

41. JS5 noted with concern that there was gender disparity in the access, ownership and control of land and other natural resources. Even where women had access to land, it is often men who had the authority or control and the tenure right to dispose of the land without regard to women's concerns and rights.[85]

42. JS14 noted that while the Constitution and family, labour, property, nationality and inheritance laws provide for the same legal status and rights for women as for men, traditional practices and societal norms often deny women their statutory entitlements to inheritance and property, a legally registered marriage with associated legal rights, and the right to adequate resources to exercise custody of children. Women also continued to experience discrimination in access to employment, wage and housing.[86]

43. JS6 stated with concern that the Property Rights of Spouses Bill which seeks to provide a more equitable distribution of property acquired during a marriage between spouses, was proposed, drafted and placed before Parliament for consideration and passage into law, but was not passed before the closure of the last Parliament.[87]

44. JS10 reported that in relation to the persistence of discrimination, rape, sexual harassment at school, the workplace and the public sphere, early and forced marriages, domestic violence and female genital mutilation, the current legislation and policies were deemed insufficient. Likewise, impunity in these regards was still one of the major challenges to overcome, together with unwillingness to report and prosecute these cases.[88]

45. GCNH noted that according to the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2014, 14% of women aged 15-19 have begun childbearing; either they have had a live birth (11%) or are pregnant with their first child (3%), a slight increase from 13% in 2008. They also stated that the percentage of women who have begun childbearing increases rapidly with age, from 2% among women age 15 to 36% among women age 19.[89]

46. FMSI noted that though Trokosi was legislated against, no prosecutions occurred in Ghana relating to this practice. It further stated that it was difficult to fully eliminate Trokosi as many families will send their girls back to the shrines if they are liberated out of fear of punishment by the gods.[90] FMSI recommended that Ghana reinforce the domestic guidelines and put stringent controls to monitor the practice of Trokosi, particularly in areas along the borders with countries where the practice is still prevalent. It also recommended ensuring that children and women who have undergone female genital mutilation and who are liberated from practices such as Trokosi, are given access to social, medical, rehabilitative and psychological services, and opportunity for legal redress.[91]

47. JS14 noted with concern that although domestic violence and violence against women is prohibited by the Domestic Violence Act of 2007, it continues to be a problem. Police seldom intervened in cases of domestic violence, in part due to a lack of counselling skills, shelter facilities and other resources to assist victims.[92] JS6 expressed similar concerns and also noted that appropriate support to victims remains a challenge.[93] JS6 therefore recommended Ghana to, as a matter of urgency, provide funds for the effective implementation of Section 8 (3) of the Domestic Violence Act, 2007, and to take immediate steps to set up shelters for victims as stipulated by the Act.[94]

Children [95]

48. JS6 noted with concern that Ghana has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world with an overall regional average of 25% and that child brides are also deprived of their fundamental rights to health, education and safety,[96] and recommended Ghana to, as a matter of urgency, allocate adequate resources to the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection's Ending Child Marriage Unit and to implement the National Strategic Framework.[97] JS8 made similar recommendations and urged Ghana to develop a strategy and an operational national action plan to combat child marriage.[98]

49. JS12 was concerned that the existing Child and Family Welfare Policy states that social protection interventions would reduce practices like child marriage, but it fails to give clear guidance or strategies on how to protect children specifically against early marriage.[99] FSMI noted with concern that in 2016, 21% of girls in Ghana were married before the age of 18 and stated that research show that the practice of child marriage is mostly driven by socioeconomic factors, such as poverty, gender inequality, pregnancy and a lack of education.[100] FMSI recommended that Ghana raise awareness on the negative consequences of child marriage and the importance of education particularly in the Northern Region, and that provide adolescent children with sexual health education to prevent teenage pregnancy, in order to break the cycle of pregnancy leading to marriage.[101]

50. GCNH noted that the content of the topics covered under social studies failed to discuss critical sexual and reproductive health rights issues in detail such as sexually transmitted infections, youth pregnancy and abortion. They further noted that the lack of open discussion about sex leads to youth having very limited knowledge on sexual behaviour and activities.[102] GCNH recommended that Ghana Health Services improve the existing health centers and establish new ones to make the centres accessible to all young people in the country.[103]

51. JS8 noted that while the Government has made relentless efforts to curb down child abuse and violence, socio-cultural aspects and poverty continue to be major causes of violence against children. Culturally-rooted practices such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, Trokosi and witch crafting, continue to put children's rights and well-being at risk, while supposedly safe environments, such as schools and homes, remain settings where most acts of abuse and violence occur. Poverty has equal importance in the occurrence of violence and often put children at risk of exploitation, whether in the form of child labour, child trafficking and sexual exploitation.[104]

52. JS9 noted that officials at all levels of government, including the President, have publicly condemned female genital mutilation as an inhumane act. However, pockets remain in some rural hard to reach communities of Ghana.[105] JS9 recommended that Ghana enforce the law regulating arrest and detention of all perpetrators of female genital mutilation and increase the promotion of child welfare health advocacy campaigns and services to protect and safeguard the reproductive health of females in Ghana.[106]

53. GIEACPC noted with concern that in Ghana corporal punishment of children is lawful, despite repeated recommendations to prohibit it by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee, and the recommendation[107] made during the 2nd UPR cycle of Ghana in 2012, which the Government accepted.[108] JS8 expressed similar concerns and noted that corporal punishment remains a problem in many settings. Physical violence often continues to be rooted in cultural norms and perceived/interpreted by perpetrators as a punitive or deterrent measure rather than a form of violence against the child, hence making it socially acceptable. Moreover, in the home, corporal punishment is often a primary form of domestic violence to which both children and women are exposed. In the home, in schools, in day care and in alternative care settings, corporal punishment remains lawful, in

particular under provisions allowing "reasonable" and "justifiable" correction in article 13(2) of the Children's Act 1998.[109] FMSI recommended that Ghana strengthen the monitoring system to ensure that no child is given corporal punishment and that reinforce efforts to raise awareness on alternative methods of discipline, and the consequences for teachers using corporal punishment on pupils.[110]

54. JS8 stated that the Ghanaian Criminal Code prohibits a range of sexual offences, but that there is no adequate legislation to address sexual exploitation involving children who engage in prostitution. However, classification of the offence is not sufficient: enforcement of the legal framework is paramount, and is currently not happening due to lack of resources, leading to underreporting and impunity for offenders.[111]

55. JS5 noted with concern that children are being exploited in galamsey (illegal small-scale mining) sector, which is growing explosively.[112] In addition, the use of child labour is also rife in the cocoa production and fishing industry.[113] JS5 recommended that Ghana continue its combat against child labour, especially in the mining industry and cocoa production, including implementation of measures on children rehabilitation, reintegration and education.[114]

56. HRW noted that child labour continued to be a serious problem in the country, including in artisanal and small-scale gold mines, where thousands of children work in hazardous conditions. HRW added that most children were aged between 15 and 17, but younger children work in mining as well.[115]

57. FSMI noted with regret that according to independent reports published in January 2016, the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour did not accomplish its goals and that the number of child labourers had increased by the end of 2015, as had the proportion of those engaging in hazardous work.[116] FMSI recommended reinforcing the national monitoring mechanism to assess the actual situation of children engaging in the labour industry.[117]

Persons with disabilities[118]

58. JS4 stated that per a recommendation[119] made at UPR 2012, Ghana was to undertake effective policy measures and develop the necessary infrastructure to address issues concerning the rights of persons with disabilities and that to date Ghana has not taken steps to address this issue as infrastructure on public spaces continue to be built without due regard for the need of developing infrastructure with access to people with disabilities.[120]

59. JS4 also stated that the Disability Movement, led by Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations, conducted an analysis of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Ghana Persons with Disabilities Act, and identified remarkable weakness within the local law. JS4 recommended that the Government amend the Disability Act in compliance with the Convention on the protection of the rights of persons with disability by March 2018.[121]

60. JS2 stated that some attempts have been made with the implementation of the 2006 Persons with Disability Act to strengthen the promotion and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities but, that there was the need for the Government and its partners to work especially on sexual and reproductive health rights of persons with disabilities.[122] JS2 recommended that the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection put together an action plan outlining the commitment of government and other partner organisations to the full implementation of the Act, including budgetary allocation for this process.[123] Moreover, JS2 recommended that the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection ensure consistency between the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Disability Act by coordinating efforts aimed at harmonizing the two instruments.[124]

61. HRW stated that people with real or perceived psychosocial disabilities continue to be forced to live in psychiatric hospitals and prayer camps, often against their will and with little possibility of challenging their confinement.[125]

62. FMSI noted that the appalling condition of people with mental challenges admitted in the prayer camps still remained unabated. It further noted that there were no real monitoring systems in place to ensure that prayer camps were complying with mandatory reporting, or to ensure that they are not mistreating those under their care.[126] FMSI recommended that Ghana enact and strengthen a domestic policy that would guide and regulate the practice of prayer camps, and that develop and build more infrastructure to support mental health services replacing prayer camps in the country.[127]

Notes

[1] The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.

Civil society

ACILA	Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability, Accra, Ghana;
ADF	Alliance Defending Freedom International, Geneva, Switzerland;
FMSI	Marist International Solidarity Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland;
GIEACPC	Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children, London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
HRAC	Human Rights Advocacy Centre, Accra, Ghana;
GCNH	Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health, Accra, Ghana;
HRW	Human Rights Watch, New York, United States of America;
MFWA	Media Foundation for West Africa, Accra, Ghana.

Joint submissions

JS1	**Joint Submission 1 submitted by:** POS Foundation; Amnesty International; Legal Resources Centre; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; Solace Brothers; Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability;
JS2	**Joint Submission 2 submitted by:** Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana (PPAG); Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations; Vision for Alternative Development (VALD); Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC); Alliance for Reproductive Health Rights (ARHR); Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH); African Women Lawyers Association (AWLA); Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF); Hope for Future Generations (HFFG);
JS3	**Joint Submission 3 submitted by:** Solace Brothers Foundation (SBF); Perfector of Sentiment (POS) Foundation; Priorities On Right and Sexual Health (PORSH); Amnesty International (Ghana); Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC); Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights Ghana (CEPEHRG); Society and Youth Development; Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability (ACILA) Ghana;
JS4	**Joint Submission 4 submitted by:** Divine Group International Foundation (DGI Foundation); Center for employment of persons with disability (CEPD) and POS foundation;

JS5	**Joint Submission 5 submitted by:** Kasa Initiative Ghana; Wacam; Forest Watch Ghana; Coalition of CSO in Water and Sanitation; CSO working group on Environment and Climate Change; CSO working Group on Mining; Coalition of CSO on Oil and Gas; Fisheries Alliance; ; Coalition of CSOs on Land;
JS6	**Joint Submission 6 submitted by:** Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment; Legal Resources Centre; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative Africa; Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability; Restoration of Hope Foundation; POS Foundation; KASA Initiative Ghana; Amnesty International; IUCN Ghana; Gender Violence Survivors Support Network Ghana; Network of Women in Growth; Community and Family Aid Foundation; Women in the Lord's Vineyard; Society and Youth Foundation;
JS7	**Joint Submission 7 submitted by:** Coalition on the Right to Information Ghana; POS Foundation; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative; Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability; Restoration of Hope Foundation; KASA Initiative Ghana;
JS8	**Joint Submission 8 submitted by:** Ghana NGO Coalition for the rights of the Child (GNCRC); Defence for Children International-Ghana (DCI-Ghana); Plan International Ghana; Defence for Children International (DCI); ECPAT International;
JS9	**Joint Submission 9 submitted by:** Mind Freedom Ghana; Concern Health Education; Gender Violence Survivors Support Network; Network of Women in Growth Ghana; Amnesty International; Community and Family Aid Foundation; Women in the Lord's Vineyard; Grace to Grace Foundation; Society and Youth Foundation; Relive Ghana; The Light Foundation Ghana (TLF); One Love Initiative Foundation; Community Outreach Alliance; Patient Friend Foundation (PFF); Community Youth Development Foundation (CYDEF); POS Foundation ; KASA Initiative;
JS10	**Joint Submission 10 submitted by:** The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU) and the Youth Harvest Foundation Ghana;
JS11	**Joint Submission 11 submitted by:** Tiger Eye Foundation Ghana; POS Foundation/KASA Initiative; Africa Centre for International Law and Accountability (ACILA); Coalition on the Right to Information, Ghana (9CII); Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Africa Office (CHRI);
JS12	**Joint Submission 12 submitted by:** Human Rights Advocacy Centre (HRAC) and Ghana Coalition of NGOs in Health (GCNH);
JS13	**Joint Submission 13 submitted by:** Ghana Integrity Initiative and Transparency International;
JS14	**Joint Submission 14 submitted by:** Sisters of the Heart; Centre for Popular Education Human Rights in Ghana; Sexual Rights Initiative;
JS15	**Joint Submission 15 submitted by:** Amnesty International Ghana; POS Foundation; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI); African Centre for International Law and Accountability (ACILA); KASA Initiative;
JS16	**Joint Submission 16 submitted by:** PLN International and PLN Ghana

[7] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.1 – 123.7, 123.11, 125.1 – 125.5, 125.16, 125.50, 125.86.
[8] JS8, page 11.
[9] JS15, page 3.
[10] JS5, page 3.
[11] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.8-123.13, 124.1, 125.6 – 125.11, 125.16, 125.23 – 125.27, 125.44, 125.52 – 125.53, 125.90, 125.62 – 125.63, 125.84, 125.86 – 125.87, 125.89, 125.91.
[12] JS8, para. 21.
[13] JS11, para.14.
[14] JS11, para. 17 (l).
[15] JS13, page 2 and 5.
[16] A/HRC/22/6, para.123.11.
[17] ACLA, para. 1.
[18] HRW, para. 40.
[19] A/HRC/22/6, para.123.7.
[20] A/HRC/22/6, para.126.1, 126.2, 126.12, 126.14, 126.15.
[21] A/HRC/22/6, para.125.16, but also 125.1, 125.3, 125.5.
[22] ACLA, para. 2.
[23] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.18, 123.23, 124.1 – 124.2, 124.8 – 124.9, 125.60 – 125.61, 125.71, 125.75.
[24] JS3, para. 4.
[25] HRW, para. 33.
[26] JS10, paras. 19 and 20.
[27] HRAC, paras. 19 and 20.
[28] JS3, para. 3.
[29] JS14, para. 19.
[30] JS3, page 7.
[31] JS3, page 8.
[32] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.8, 123.11, 123.19, 123.20, 123.22, 124.3 – 124.7, 125.1, 125.3 – 125.5, 125.15 – 125.18, 125.45, 125.59, 125.90.
[33] JS1, para. 5.
[34] JS5, para. 8.1.
[35] JS5, para. 8.3.
[36] JS1, para. 14.
[37] MFWA, paras. 17 and 18.
[38] JS5, para. 8.7.
[39] JS5, para. 8.9.
[40] JS1, para. 21.
[41] HRAC, page 4.
[42] HRAC, page 5.
[43] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 123.11, 123.21, 124.1, 124.3-124.5, 124.7 – 124.9, 125.6, 125.10, 125.20 – 125.21, 125.29 – 125.40, 125.47, 125.49 – 125.50, 125.52, 125.57 – 125.59.
[44] JS11, paras. 6 and 7.
[45] JS1, para.15.
[46] JS1, para. 19.
[47] JS1, para. 36.
[48] JS5, para. 9.1.
[49] JS9, para. 5.1.
[50] JS1, para. 28.
[51] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.12, 125.62 – 125.63.
[52] A/HRC/22/6, para. 125.62 and 63.
[53] JS16, para. 6.
[54] JS7, paras. 10 and 13.
[55] JS16, paras. 10 and 11.

[91] SR WAS, para. 33.
[92] SR WAS, para. 30.
[93] JS16, para. 10.
[94] JS7, paras. 5, 6 and 7.
[95] JS7, para. 9.
[96] SR WAS, para.63.
[97] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 125.6, 125.65.
[98] JS15, para. 2.
[99] JS15, page 3.
[100] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 125.66, 125.82, 125.95.
[101] JS13, page 3.
[102] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 125.45, 125.64, 125.66, 125.74, 125.82, 125.90.
[103] JS10, para. 11.
[104] SOS, para. 18.
[105] SOS, para. 18.
[106] JS13, page 5.
[107] JS9, para.32.
[108] CACNH, para. 32.
[109] JS14, para. 28.
[110] HRCAC, page 4.
[111] HRCAC, page 5.
[112] JS9, para. 38.
[113] JS12, page 11.
[114] JS12, page 9.
[115] JS9, para. 8.
[116] JS9, para. 6.
[117] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 125.14, 125.28, 125.95, 125.64, 125.74 – 125.83.
[118] JS10, para. 16.
[119] JS3, para. 7.
[120] JS13, page 4.
[121] JS13, page 5.
[122] FMNI, para. 6.
[123] FMNI, para.7.
[124] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 123.9, 123.10, 123.16 – 123.18, 125.10 – 125.14, 125.19 – 125.45, 125.48, 125.67, 125.78 – 125.79.
[125] JS9, para. 4.1.
[126] JS14, para. 17.
[127] JS6, para. 40.
[128] JS10, para. 8.
[129] CACNH, para. 26.
[130] FMNI, para. 16 and 17.
[131] FMNI, para. 18.
[132] JS14, para. 5.
[133] JS6, para. 36.
[134] JS6, para. 40.
[135] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/9, paras. 123.1 – 123.9, 123.17, 123.20, 123.23, 124.7, 125.1 – 125.2, 125.10, 125.23, 125.27 – 125.28, 125.46 – 125.56, 125.59 – 125.61, 125.80.
[136] JS6, para. 9.
[137] JS6, para. 13.
[138] JS8, para. 21.
[139] JS12, page 19.
[140] FMNI, para. 21.
[141] FMNI, para. 20.
[142] CACNH, page 3.

[103] GCNH, page 7.
[104] JS8, para. 11.
[105] JS9, para. 20.
[106] JS9, para. 23.
[107] A/HRC/22/6, para. 123.20.
[108] GIEACPC, page 1.
[109] JS8, para. 12. See also GIEACPC, page 2.
[110] FSMI, para.30.
[111] JS8, para. 25.
[112] JS5, para. 12.1.
[113] JS5, para. 12.3.
[114] JS5, para. 12.4 (v).
[115] HRW, paras. 4 and 6.
[116] FSMI, para. 24.
[117] FSMI, para. 26.
[118] For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.2, 125.84 – 125.90.
[119] A/HRC/22/6, paras. 125.89.
[120] JS4, para. 1.
[121] JS4, para. 2.
[122] JS2, page 7.
[123] JS2, page 7.
[124] JS2, page 8.
[125] HRW, para. 18.
[126] FMSI, paras. 11 and 12.
[127] FMSI, para. 13.